



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in the Law

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5, 2019

11am – 1pm

Location: The Depot, Virginia Commonwealth University

(814 W. Broad St. Richmond, VA 23284)

1. Call to Order by the Chair
 - a. Commissioners Present:
 - i. Hon. Jerrauld Jones
 - ii. Hon. Birdie Jamison
 - iii. Carla Jackson
 - iv. Leslie Chamber Mehta
 - v. Cynthia Hudson
 - vi. Andy Block
 - vii. Hank Chambers
 - viii. Jill Hanken
 - b. Commissioners Not Present:
 - i. Hon. Mike Herring
2. Public Comment: No public comment was received
3. Administrative Items
 - a. Adoption of the October 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes – duly adopted
 - b. Adoption of the agenda – duly adopted
4. Review of Interim Report & Production Process
 - Overall pleased with the final version of the Commission's Interim Report and the presentation event.
 - The Commissioners were particularly moved by the testimony of Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson Rice who spoke about her experience in the Richmond 34.
5. Commission work – phase II
 - a. Next steps:



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- Discussion on continuing to examine the Acts of Assembly because the Commission has, to date, only reviewed several decades.
 - May consider looking at the decades 1950-1990.
 - Discussed taking public comment to learn what next steps and areas of the law are most important to Virginians. This could be an opportunity to make this process a community effort.
 - This comes with the understanding that there are advocates, experts, and academic who already study and advocate for legal reform in areas of the law where disparate impact affects Virginians.
 - Commissioners were particular interested in the areas of housing, health, and voting rights.
 - In terms of making the Commission's future work more of a community effort, the Commission is interested in potentially taking its work outside of Richmond.
 - Suggested that Commissioners may come to the next meeting with recommendations for areas of review based on their subject areas.
- b. To do items before the next meeting:
- i. The Chair will propose an approach to look at the *Code of Virginia* and the unanalyzed *Acts of Assembly* by late December.
 - 1. This may also include a process to receive public comment and input for the Commission's next steps.
 - ii. The Chair, the Vice Chair, and Commissioner Jackson will work to develop a proposal on how to incorporate student researchers in the process going forward.
- c. When do we want to meet next?
- i. The next meeting is tentatively planned for January 23, 2020.

6. Adjournment